

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 SY-05 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /037 W

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R 230858Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGPOARE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 1068

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BBAK ASEC MU MY SN

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA-BASED
AMERICAN FIRM

1. ALLEGEDLY AMERICAN FIRM ENTITLED "WOODSTOCK (M) SDN. BHD. "WHICH IS BASED IN PENANG AND SINGAPORE RECENTLY WON SIZEABLE CONTRACT TO BUILD PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES FOR OMANGOV ENTITY. FIRM NOW EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN BRINGING IN MALAYSIAN WORKERS TO MOVE AHEAD ON CONTRACT. INCONTEXT OF CONVERSATION WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE RE POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITY, THAT OFFICIAL BROUGHT UP WOODSTOCK CASE AND STATED THAT IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUSPEND ACTION ON ADMISSION SINCE MOST OF WORKERS ARE ETHNIC CHINESE. OMANGOV HENCE SUSPICIOUS, WONDERING IF SUCH LABORERS MIGHT POST SECURITY THREAT.

2. AT INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REQUEST EMBOFF AGREED TO TRY TO GET READING ON FIRM, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THERE IS ANY HISTORY OF LABOR DIFFICULTIES, ETC. IF GIVEN CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH BASED ON OUR READING, OMANGOV WILL ALLOW ENTRY OF MALAYSIA, BUT SEVERLY RESTRICT THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WHILE IN OMAN.

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3. WOODSTOCK LISTS ADDRESSES AS (A) FIRST NATIONAL

CITY BANK BUILDING, 1 LIGHT ST., PENANG, W. MALAYSIA,
TEL: 21216-7, 28715, P.O. BOX 1085, CABLES "LUMWUD",
TELEX "LUMWUD MA 40072"; AND (B) 177A GOLDHILL
SHOPPING CENTER, THOMSON RD., SINGAPORE 11, TEL:
536023, CABLES "FOURCORNER".

4. LOCAL WOODSTOCK REPRESENTATIVE MR. WALPOLE
DAVIS TOLD US SEPTEMBER 23 THAT COMPANY IS REG-
ISTERED IN MALAYSIA, ALTHOUGH AMERICAN CAPITAL IN-
VOLVED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION
WHICH DISCREETLY MIGHT BE OBTAINED CONCERNING THIS
FIRM. ALSO USEFUL WOULD BE KUALA LUMPUR'S OBSERVA-
TIONS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S PASSPORT ISSUING PRO-
CEDURES. DAVIS TELLS US GOM CAREFULLY SCREENS AP-
PLICANTS AND DENIES PASSPORTS TO PERSONS DEEMED
TO BE POTENTIAL SECURITY RISKS.
WOLLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT01068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750329-0295
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750926/aaaaawtl.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA-BASED AMERICAN FIRM
TAGS: BBAK, ASEC, MU, MY, SN
To: STATE SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006